

9/11 MEMORIAL

UNIT: Heroes and Service

GRADE LEVEL/S: 3–5

TIME NEEDED: 3 sessions

TEACHER: Shirley Lew

LESSON TITLE:

REMEMBERING HEROES

Common Core Standards

RL 7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

W 2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

W 7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

L 2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing

Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

- What is a memorial?
- What happened on 9/11?
- Who were heroes on 9/11?

Lesson Goals/ Objectives

- Students will recognize different heroes and understand their actions on 9/11.
- Students will outline common characteristics of heroes.

Key Terms

Compassion, Generosity, Hero, Honor, Memorial, Memorialize, Patriotism, Pride, Sacrifice*

* The act of giving up something for a reason or cause. One can sacrifice many things, including money, possessions, time, animals, or even a life. Often, someone who sacrifices does so out of a sense of duty or responsibility.

Materials

- Maclean, Christine. Even Firefighters Hug Their Moms. (Dutton Juvenile, 2002)
- Boxes
- Red, white and blue construction paper
- Markers
- Glue or tape
- Photos of 9/11 Memorial
- 9/11 Memorial website: www.911memorial.org
- Scholastic Website: www.scholastic.com

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- Computer
- Internet access and printer
- “Hero” images
- Chart paper
- Photos

**Background
for lesson
(if necessary)**

Students should have some prior knowledge about 9/11 (see [9/11 FAQ](#)).

**Instructional
Activity/
Procedures**

1. Ask students: *Who do communities often remember after they are gone?*
 - Possible answers include: Heroes, leaders, celebrities
2. Make a web diagram charting students’ responses to: *Who are today’s heroes? What do these heroes have in common? What are common traits of heroes?*
3. Using the web diagram, ask students: *Who was a hero on 9/11? Create a list of heroes.*
4. Read [Even Firefighters Hug Their Moms](#).
5. Direct students to research the 9/11 Memorial website and choose three 9/11 heroes who they would like to memorialize. They should choose a photo/image for each of their three 9/11 heroes and write a short biography for each of their heroes.
6. Students will now construct a 9/11 Memorial tower comprised of the images and biographies of their heroes. Each student should choose three (3) boxes and decorate with construction paper. Then, have each student glue a photo and biography of the hero on one side of the box, along with other traits they believe exemplify their heroes. They should feel free to adorn the boxes however they wish.
7. Construct a tower monument one block at a time (taping top and bottom to each block). Each student places their block one by one to help build a 9/11 hero memorial tower.

**Evidence of
Understanding**

Class participation during discussions and the content, layout, and content accuracy of their memorial boxes will highlight their understanding of 9/11 heroes and the traits they embodied.

**Extension
Activities**

- The student can continue researching information on the 9/11 memorial at home to add to the towers.
- The construction of the tower can be expanded into a school-wide event.